

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4776

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

UNCLAS WELLINGTON 00309

MANILA FOR SAIC GREENE/BANGKOK FOR ADDARIO/PORT MORESBY
AND CANBERRA FOR NARCOTICS COORDINATOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, NZ

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE NARCOTICS TRAINING TEAM VISIT TO
NEW ZEALAND

REF: HOLMES/GREENE/ADDARIO CONVERSATION JANUARY 11, 1978

1. SUMMARY. AS FOLLOW-UP TO PREVIOUS CONVERSATIONS,
NARCOTICS COORDINATOR WAS ASKED TO SEEK GOVERNMENT OF
NEW ZEALAND APPROVAL FOR A DEA NARCOTICS TRAINING PROGRAM
TO BE HELD IN NEW ZEALAND DURING APRIL 1978. NEW ZEALAND
POLICE HAVE GIVEN APPROVAL AND EXTEND INVITATION.
END SUMMARY.

2. THE POSSIBILITY OF DEA ORGANIZING AND CONDUCTING A
NARCOTICS TRAINING PROGRAM OF APPROXIMATELY THREE DAYS
DURATION IN NEW ZEALAND WAS DISCUSSED IN LATE 1977 BY SAIC
JACK GREENE WITH DIRECTOR OF NEW ZEALAND NATIONAL DRUG
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INTELLIGENCE BUREAU (NDIB) AND (APPARENTLY) BY DEA
REPRESENTATIVES WITH NZ POLICE CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT
MAL CHURCHES AT PATTAYA. DURING THESE CONVERSATIONS THERE
WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT: (A) NZ POLICE AND CUSTOMS
COULD BENEFIT GREATLY FROM A TAILORED DEA TRAINING PROGRAM;
(B) DEA WOULD INVESTIGATE THE POSSIBILITY OF PROVIDING A
SHORT TERM TRAINING SESSION IN NEW ZEALAND DURING 1978 AS

A "PIGGY BACK" WITH A FULL-SCALE PROGRAM BEING CONDUCTED ELSEWHERE IN SE ASIA.

3. REF CONVERSATION INFORMED WELLINGTON NARCOTICS COORDINATOR THAT DEA TRAINING TEAM WOULD LIKELY BE AVAILABLE DURING APRIL 1978 TO CONDUCT APPROXIMATELY THREE DAY PROGRAM IN NEW ZEALAND AT LOCATION OF NZ AUTHORITIES' CHOICE. NARCOTICS COORDINATOR WAS ASKED TO INQUIRE OF NDIB AND NZ POLICE WHETHER THEY WOULD BE INTERESTED.

4. NARCOTICS COORDINATOR HAS DISCUSSED TENTATIVE PLANS WITH DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT MITTEN (SUPERINTENDENT CHURCHES AND NDIB SENIOR OFFICIALS ARE OUT OF TOWN). MITTEN ADVISED THAT NDIB HAS SCHEDULED FOUR TRAINING SESSIONS DURING 1978, ONE FOR LAST WEEK OF MARCH. NZ POLICE WOULD BE PLEASED, HE SAID, TO WELCOME DEA TRAINING TEAM AND WOULD BE WILLING TO SHIFT ITS OWN TRAINING SCHEDULE TO COINCIDE WITH APRIL DATES.

5. IN RESPONSE TO MITTEN'S INQUIRY CONCERNING COSTS, NARCOTICS COORDINATOR ANSWERED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THERE WOULD BE NO COST TO NZ POLICE AND CUSTOMS OTHER THAN THE PROVISION OF APPROPRIATE FACILITIES AND THE MOVEMENT/SUBSISTENCE OF THEIR OWN PERSONNEL. PLEASE ADVISE IMMEDIATELY IF THIS IS NOT ACCURATE.

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6. MITTEN'S WELCOME SHOULD BE INTERPRETED BY DEA AS APPROPRIATE GNZ APPROVAL FOR AN APRIL 1978 SHORT-TERM NARCOTICS TRAINING PROGRAM IN NEW ZEALAND. NARCOTICS COORDINATOR WILL BE PLEASED TO ASSIST IN PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT AS NECESSARY. INFORMATION AS TO SPECIFIC DATES WOULD BE HELPFUL ASAP. SELDEN

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